



NEWS RELEASE

Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management
1800 Marquess St. • Las Cruces, NM 88005
Alan Ables, Public Affairs Officer • 505/525-4488



For Immediate Release

October 25, 2002 cam1025.rel

For Additional Information

Harry Myers, 505/988-6717
Sarah Schlanger, 505/438-7454

Draft of *El Camino* Plan Released, “Open Houses” Scheduled

SANTA FE – The National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management have published a draft management plan for the *El Camino Real* National Historic Trail and have scheduled a series of meetings to hear public comment about it.

The document is called “*El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* National Historic Trail Draft Comprehensive Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement.” It was prepared during the past 18 months following an earlier series of public hearings to discuss environmental issues, historical development and recreational access along the 404-mile U.S. portion of the trail from El Paso, Texas, to San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico.

The draft plan lists alternatives for managing historic properties on BLM-administered and other federal, tribal, state, local or private lands. It is available in print and on compact disc by contacting plan coordinators Harry Myers, National Park Service, 505-988-6717, or Sarah Schlanger, BLM, 505-438-7454. It is available on line at: www.elcaminoreal.org.

A series of “open houses” are scheduled from El Paso to Santa Fe. The meetings will begin at 6 p.m. November 6 at the BLM office in Albuquerque, 534 Montano Road, NE, and November 7 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1100 California, NE, in Socorro.

The meetings continue at 5 p.m. November 8 at the St. Francis Auditorium, Fine Arts Museum, 107 W. Palace Ave., Santa Fe, and at 6 p.m. November 21 at the New

Mexico Farm and Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road in Las Cruces.

Discussions will begin at 6 p.m. November 22 at the Chamizal National Memorial, 800 S. San Marcial St., El Paso, December 3 at the Onate Center, Highway 68 at Alcalde, and December 5 at the Civic Center, 505 Sims St., Truth or Consequences.

Open house participants may meet with plan drafters, ask questions and provide comments. Comments about the plan also may be mailed to Myers or Schlanger at: *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* National Historic Trail; P.O. Box 728; Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728, or hand-delivered to the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Office, 2968 Rodeo Park Drive West, Santa Fe. Internet comments may be addressed to www.elcaminoreal.org.

All comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be available for public review during regular business hours at the Park Service Office and the BLM State Office, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe. Although anonymous comments will not be accepted, individuals may request that their identify or home address be excluded from the record.

Spanish explorers created the 1,200-mile *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* (Royal Road of the Interior) in the 16th Century as a link between the colonial capital Mexico City and the provincial capitals of the “interior lands” in the present-day Santa Fe area.

Congress granted national historic status to the trail in October 2000. This is the first time that a national trail has been assigned to two agencies for joint administration.